Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes for the meeting on January 7, 2014

President – Craig Bigler KB3LBU
Vice President – Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB
Secretary/Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD

Board Members for 2013:

1. Craig Bigler KB3LBU
2. Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
3. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
4. Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB
5. Larry Freeman N3LT
6. Carl Hvozda N3PIE
7. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
8. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
9. Elmer Sorisio KB3WG

Craig KB3LBU called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm local time.

Approval of meeting minutes for December 3, 2013:

Larry N3LT mentioned that Fred KM3M had a correction to the minutes:
Under the ARISS section – it says that this is a way to keep our foot in the door. This is misleading and should state that this is a way to keep our foot in the door at the school district. And should not mean to keep our foot in the door for the Indiana School district's ARISS contact. (We as a club, due to lack of answers from the school district, decided to not participate in their ARISS contact.)
Dave KA3KFA Moved to accept the minutes as corrected.
Larry N3LT Seconded the motion.
Motion was voted on and passed.

Financial Report:

Terry KB3JOD
Opening balance For December 2013 was ***announced***
Electric Bill (for December) -$52.00
50/50 drawing (for December) +$20
Dues paid in December +$110.00
Parts for Repeater Repair -83.10
Closing balance for December is ***announced***

Alton N3PHL made a motion to accept the financial report
Larry N3LT seconded the motion
The motion to accept the financial report was passed

(Information from current electric bill:
Service Charge (just for the electrical connection) $28.50
Distribution Charge (kWh used X 0.017150) 280kWh used = $4.80
Generation & Trans. Charge (kWh used X 0.083600) 280kWh used = $18.61
Total kWh used for last 12 months = 1570
Average Monthly kWh used for last 12 months = 131)

Monday Night Net update: (146.91MHz – 20:00)
If you are interested in being a Net Control Station, please contact the Net Coordinator Roger N3ULC.

Monday Nite NBEMS Practice: (146.91MHz – 20:30)
The NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System) will be at 8:30pm, after the Monday nite net. Everyone is welcome to join in. We usually start with voice and then pass messages back and forth to each other. It's a great way to tune up your Fldigi and to gain experience in case there is an emergency. Don't wait until the last minute to figure out how to use Fldigi.

Information:

Rusty WB3EUQ – contact information
Rusty is at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, a Pennsylvania state facility just south of Altoona. Please note that he is not in the Altoona VA Hospital. He is in Eisenhower Hall and it's nursing care. The phone number for his room is **(814) 695-1635**. You may call at anytime. He does have a cell phone. For his cell phone **(724) 388-1202**.
Rusty's mailing address is :

David O'Donnell *(David is his actual name)*
P.O. Box 319
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

When you go: when you come to Eisenhower Hall (the large building with the WWII tank in front of it, as you first come onto the grounds) You will need to sign in at the Security desk – they will direct you to his unit, North 2. The security guards have room charts and know the residents.
Larry N3LT would like to get a group together to go an visit Rusty. Maybe some Saturday after breakfast.

VE Testing:
The dates are listed on the ARRL web site (The first Saturday in April and October).
There was a discussion about holding a class for the Tech class. We need more discussion on the subject.

Facebook page:
ICARC has a facebook page now. Search for Indiana County Amateur Radio Club on facebook and click on the Like button and or leave a comment. Facebook page address - **https://www.facebook.com/w3bmd** . There is also a link at the top of the Club's web page (**http://www.qsl.net/w3bmd/**) that looks like the following icon.

Letter from Robert KB3JOF:
This coming February, Robert will be taking a missionary trip to Guatemala with a church group. He will be taking his Radio gear with him. So if someone needs credit for a contact in Guatemala, get in contact with Robert.

Business:

Repeater Update:
The 440.975 repeater – Elmer KB3WG repaired the preamp and it is working ok now.
The 144.130 packet machine is up and running.
The 146.910 repeater also will need to have the preamp worked on. Elmer is looking for the parts (approximately $70).

Since the building of the new house next to the repeater site, we need to verify the status or the intentions of the property owners. We need to know whether or not we need to be looking for a new repeater site. Maybe we should not bring up the subject. We may need to look for an alternative site for Field Day.

Fund Raisers:
Unofficially we received $83 something. *(Officially we received a check for $85.78)* Carl N3PIE had also said that Hoss's is starting a new fund raiser. Carl will explain more about it.

A discussion was held on selling Sheetz coupon booklets. Further investigation is needed before a decision is made.

New Business:

SDR Dongle;
Larry N3LT the dongle and has received it. He was able to verify its operation on a desktop computer running XP but was not able to the drivers to work on a Laptop computer. He tried it on a XP Laptop and a Win7 Laptop without success. He will attempt to try it with a Vista Laptop.

Activities for 2014:
Craig KB3LBU ask the club members what activities should we pursue for the coming year.
He was asked by Keith Rearick, one of the board members from the airport, asking if we were going to continue participating in the Airport Awareness Day.
Other things we need to consider are Fund Raisers, 'serious' fund raisers. Or even a Hamfest. This is all up to discussion. Nothing has to decided upon right away.
A potato cannon competition, open to the public, was also brought up. All brainstorming ideas are welcome for discussion.
Attending neighboring club's meetings to collaborate with other clubs, was also brought up.
HSMM networking was discussed.
Also brought up was discussion on alternate power to help reduce the electric bill, (solar panels).

HSMM:
The next Western PA ARES HSMM workshop will be held Saturday Jan 25 from 10AM-noon at Thackery Hall on the University of Pittsburgh campus. This is the same building in which we held our last workshop, but this time we have reserved a much bigger classroom. Talk-in will be on the 443.45 PL 100 Hz repeater. For more info, please contact me or join the wpaares-hsmm Yahoo group.

73,
Harry Bloomberg W3YJ
Section Emergency Coordinator
Western PA ARES
hbloomb@gmail.com

Phil K3PJ is planning to try an HSMM setup at the Boy Scout Iron Man race this summer at Camp Seth Mack. He would like to transmit video from the turnaround at the breast of Yellow Creek Lake back to the start at Camp Seth Mack.

PEMA / ACS:
The PEMA EOC was in partial activation mode from 8pm Jan. 2nd through 8am Jan. 3rd for the winter storm that came through Pennsylvania. Then again the PEMA / ACS activated a Statewide NBEMS Weather net starting 8pm Jan 5th through 8am Jan 8th.
The NBEMS nets use a frequency of 3.583MHz USB (evenings) and 7.073MHz USB (daytime) using the Olivia 8/500 digital mode.

ARES:
Our annual Western PA ARES Emcomm Conference at Pitt-Johnstown has been scheduled for Saturday June 14, 2014. Mark your calendars!

Attention: Indiana County is in need of an official A.R.E.S. Emergency Coordinator (EC). The current assistant ECs are Jerry KB3DUD, Roger N3ULC, and Terry KB3JOD.

Bill W3LAB asked about the where-abouts of the county's repeater (146.685 MHz).
Terry KB3JOD responded that it is currently sitting in Craig's KB3LBU garage, awaiting installation at the Blue Spruce tower site. It is currently on hold awaiting the Indiana County EMA.

Airport Awareness Days: also June 14th and June 15th

Field Day: June 28th and 29th.

Repeater Clean-up:
We need to schedule a time to clean up the repeater shack and also time to clean-up the repeater site (brush needs to be cut away from the guy wires etc.)
Doug K3LAB explained Field day for Joe Rankin's benefit.
There was discussion of maybe having a Field Day station at the Indiana EOC on Haven Drive.

Ham Radio demonstration for Cub Scouts:
Craig KB3LBU mentioned that he asked the Cub Scout Day Camp (beginning of June) if they would be interested in having a Ham Radio demonstration at the camp. The organizers seemed to be very interested. Fred KM3M said that he would help out. Doug K3LAB said that he would also be willing to help out.

Programs / Presentations During 2014:

January presentation – Open
February presentation – Carl N3PIE-- Evergreen Conservancy
March's presentation – Indiana County EMA – Tom Stutzman and Linda Artman
April's presentation – Open
May's presentation – Open
June's presentation – Open
July's presentation – Open
August presentation – Open
September presentation - Open
October presentation – Open
November presentation Open
December presentation – Open

If anyone would like to give a presentation during a club meeting, please contact any of the club officers.

50/50:

Craig KB3LBU won the 50/50 drawing. A total of $15.00 was collected.
Craig donated the winnings back to the club.
Thank you Craig.

.

Alton N3PHL moved to close the meeting.
Larry N3LT seconded the motion.
The motion was voted on and passed.

The meeting was closed at 8:55pm local time.

Meeting Attendance:

(X) Craig Bigler – KB3LBU *(President)*

(X) Terry Carnahan – KB3JOD *(secretary/Treasure)*

(X) David Dzelsky – N3DZ *(Board member)*

(X) Doug Fitzsimmons – K3LAB *(Vice President)*

(X) Larry Freeman – N3LT *(Board member)*

(X) Bill Menk – W3LAB

(X) Elmer Sorisio – KB3WG *(Board member and Repeater Trustee)*

(X) Dave Steiner – KA3KFA

(X) Alton Strong – N3PHL

(X) Joe Rankin (possible new member / ham)